

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANTHONY SWETALA, individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated
and the general public,

Plaintiff,

v.

QUTEN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 1:24-cv-00620-JLT-BAM

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULING ORDER

Status Conference: August 4, 2025, 8:30 a.m.
Courtroom 8 (BAM)

Amendments to Pleadings: September 5, 2025

Class Certification

Written Discovery Cutoff: June 1, 2026

Class Certification

Motion Filing Deadline: August 3, 2026

Class Certification

Opposition Deadline: November 6, 2026

Class Certification

Reply Deadline: February 26, 2027

Class Certification

Motion Hearing March 16, 2027, 9:00 a.m.
Courtroom 8 (BAM)

This Court conducted a preliminary scheduling conference on July 1, 2025. Counsel Kas
Gallucci appeared by video on behalf of Anthony Swetala. Counsel Keara Gordon and William
Reichart appeared by video on behalf of Defendant Quten Research Institute, LLC.

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A. Consent To Magistrate Judge

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), the parties have not consented to conduct all further proceedings in this case, including trial, before the Honorable Barbara A. McAuliffe, United States Magistrate Judge.

B. Amendment to the Parties' Pleadings

All stipulated amendments or motions to amend shall be filed by **September 5, 2025**.

C. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) Initial Disclosures

Initial disclosures have been completed.

D. Preliminary Class Certification Dates

After discussion with counsel, the Court **SETS** the following dates for class certification only:

1.	Class Certification Written Discovery Cutoff:	June 1, 2026
2.	Class Certification Motion Filing Deadline:	August 3, 2026
3.	Class Certification Opposition Deadline:	November 6, 2026
4.	Class Certification Reply Deadline:	February 26, 2027
5.	Class Certification Motion Hearing	March 16, 2027 Time: 9:00 AM Dept: 8 (BAM)

As discussed at the conference, the parties will conduct class certification discovery in two phases. First, the parties will conduct written discovery concerning class certification issues and may conduct depositions. While the motion for class certification is pending, the parties may conduct depositions of any expert witnesses or declarants disclosed in the parties' briefings on class certification. Defendants may take depositions after the motion is filed, and Plaintiff may take depositions after the opposition is filed. The parties are reminded of the deposition limitations set forth in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Compliance with the discovery deadlines requires motions to compel be filed and heard sufficiently in advance of the respective discovery cutoff dates so that the court may grant effective relief within the allotted discovery time. A party's failure to have a discovery dispute heard sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff may result in denial of the motion as untimely.

1 **E. Status Conference**

2 The Court sets a status conference for **August 4, 2025, at 8:30 AM in Courtroom 8 (BAM)**
3 **before Magistrate Judge Barbara A. McAuliffe.** The purpose of the conference is to address the
4 parties' anticipated protective order. If the parties file a stipulated protective order prior to the
5 conference, then the conference will be vacated. The parties shall appear at the conference remotely
6 with each party connecting via Zoom video conference. The parties will be provided with the Zoom
7 ID and password by the Courtroom Deputy prior to the conference. The Zoom ID number and
8 password are confidential and are not to be shared. Appropriate court attire required.

9 **F. Law and Motion**

10 Non-dispositive motions are heard on Fridays at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 8 before the
11 Honorable Barbara A. McAuliffe, United States Magistrate Judge. Before scheduling such motions,
12 the parties shall comply with Local Rule 230 or Local Rule 251.

13 Counsel must comply with Local Rule 251 with respect to discovery disputes or the motion
14 will be denied without prejudice and dropped from calendar. In addition to filing a joint statement
15 electronically, a copy of the joint statement shall also be sent Judge McAuliffe's chambers by email to
16 bamorders@caed.uscourts.gov. Counsel for the parties are additionally required to conduct at least one
17 **telephonic or in person conference** as part of their obligations to meet and confer in good faith to
18 resolve their discovery dispute prior to seeking judicial intervention. The parties are further cautioned
19 that boilerplate objections to written discovery will be summarily denied.

20 Upon stipulation of the parties, Judge McAuliffe will resolve discovery disputes by informal
21 telephonic conference outside the formal procedures of the Local Rules and Federal Rules of Civil
22 Procedure governing noticed motions to compel. The procedures for requesting an informal
23 telephonic conference are set forth in Judge McAuliffe's Case Management Procedures located on the
24 Court's website, <http://www.caed.uscourts.gov>. If the parties stipulate to an informal ruling on a
25 discovery dispute that arises during a deposition, they may request an informal ruling during the
26 deposition by contacting Judge McAuliffe's Courtroom Deputy, Esther Valdez, by telephone at (559)
27 499-5788.

28 The parties are advised that unless prior leave of the Court is obtained, all moving and

1 opposition briefs or legal memorandum in matters before Judge McAuliffe shall not exceed twenty-
2 five (25) pages. Reply briefs by the moving party shall not exceed ten (10) pages. These page
3 limitations do not include exhibits. Briefs that exceed this page limitation, or are sought to be filed
4 without leave, may not be considered by the Court.

5 **Young Attorneys and Motions before Judge McAuliffe**

6 Hearings on Motions before Judge McAuliffe are often vacated and submitted upon the record
7 and briefs. See L.R. 230(g). However, the Court recognizes the value and importance of training
8 young attorneys, and the Court encourages the parties to consider assigning the oral argument to an
9 attorney with seven (7) years or less experience out of law school. If any party provides notification
10 that a young attorney from at least one party will argue the motion, the Court will hold the hearing as
11 scheduled. The parties shall so notify the Court by separately including a section after the conclusion
12 of the motion, opposition, or reply briefing requesting the hearing remain on calendar. If no party
13 provides such notice, the hearing may be vacated without further notice.

14 **Motions for Summary Judgment or Summary Adjudication**

15 Prior to filing a motion for summary judgment or motion for summary adjudication the parties
16 are ORDERED to meet, in person or by telephone, and confer to discuss the issues to be raised in the
17 motion.

18 The purpose of meeting shall be to: 1) avoid filing motions for summary judgment where a
19 question of fact exists; 2) determine whether the respondent agrees that the motion has merit in whole
20 or in part; 3) discuss whether issues can be resolved without the necessity of briefing; 4) narrow the
21 issues for review by the Court; 5) explore the possibility of settlement before the parties incur the
22 expense of briefing a summary judgment motion; and 6) to arrive at a joint statement of undisputed
23 facts.

24 The moving party shall initiate the meeting and provide a draft of the joint statement of
25 undisputed facts. In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 260, the moving party shall file a joint
26 statement of undisputed facts.

27 In the notice of motion, the moving party shall certify that the parties have met and conferred
28 as ordered above and set forth a statement of good cause for the failure to meet and confer.

G. Effect of This Order

This order represents the best estimate of the Court and counsel as to the agenda most suitable for this case. If the parties determine at any time that the schedule outlined in this order cannot be met, counsel are ordered to notify the Court immediately of that fact so that adjustments may be made, either by stipulation or by subsequent status conference.

The dates set in this Order are considered to be firm and will not be modified absent a showing of good cause even if the request to modify is made by stipulation. Stipulations extending the deadlines contained herein will not be considered unless they are accompanied by affidavits or declarations, and where appropriate, attached exhibits, which establish good cause for granting the relief requested.

The failure to comply with this order may result in the imposition of sanctions.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **July 3, 2025**

/s/ *Barbara A. McAuliffe*
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE